

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method for delivering a plurality of unique items each having a unique identity and having a different item code readable therefrom, said method
5 including the steps of:
 - A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
 - B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
 - 10 C) reading said item code from each of said items; and
 - D) linking said delivery notice code with said item code from each of said items.
2. A method for delivering a plurality of unique items each having a unique
15 identity and having a different machine-readable item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:
 - A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
 - 20 B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
 - C) reading said item code from one of said items;
 - D) linking said delivery notice code with said item code;
 - E) reporting information regarding the item in response to receipt of a description of said one of said delivery notices from an intended
25 recipient; and
 - F) modifying delivery plans of said item based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient.

3. A method for delivering a plurality of unique items each having a unique identity and having a different machine-readable item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:

- A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
- B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
- C) reading said item codes from each of said items;
- D) linking said delivery notice code with said item codes;
- E) reporting information regarding the item in response to receipt of a description of said one of said delivery notices from an intended recipient; and
- F) modifying delivery plans of said item based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient.

4. A method of altering the delivery of an item to an intended recipient when an attempted delivery of said item by a delivery service has been unsuccessful and the intended recipient has been provided a delivery notice code, comprising:

- A) contacting the delivery service;
- B) using the delivery notice code to access information about said item wherein said information includes delivery plans for the parcel; and
- C) modifying the delivery plans based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient.

5. A method of altering the delivery of an item to an intended recipient when an attempted delivery of said item by a delivery service has been unsuccessful and the intended recipient has been provided a delivery notice code, comprising:
- 5 A) contacting the delivery service through a telephone system;
- B) using the delivery notice code to access information about said item via the telephone system wherein said information includes delivery plans for the parcel; and
- 10 C) modifying the delivery plans based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient received via the telephone system.
6. A method of altering the delivery of an item to an intended recipient when an attempted delivery of said item by a delivery service has been unsuccessful and the intended recipient has been provided a delivery notice code, comprising:
- 15 A) contacting the delivery service through an Internet system;
- B) using the delivery notice code to access information about said item via the internet system wherein said information includes delivery plans for the parcel; and
- 20 C) modifying the delivery plans based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient received via the Internet system.
7. A method for delivering a unique item having a unique identity and having a unique item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:
- 25 A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon and each of said delivery notices being an RFID tag, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
- B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
- 30 C) reading said item code from the item; and
- D) linking said delivery notice code with said item code.

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8. A method for delivering a unique item having a unique identity and having a unique item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:
- A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
 - B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
 - C) reading said item code from the item wherein said item code is encoded on an RFID tag; and
 - D) linking said delivery notice code with said item code.
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9. A method for delivering a unique item having a unique identity and having an item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:
- A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon and each of said delivery notices being an RFID tag, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
 - B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
 - C) reading said item code from the item wherein said item code is encoded on an RFID tag; and
 - D) linking said delivery notice code with said item code.
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10. A method of notifying an intended recipient of an item of an unsuccessful attempted delivery of an item, comprising:
- A) reading an item code from the item;
 - B) linking a delivery notice code with said data associated with said item; and
 - C) sending an electronic transmission to the intended recipient, wherein said transmission includes the delivery notice code.
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11. A method of delivering an item to an intended recipient after an unsuccessful attempted delivery of the item, comprising:
- A) reading an item code from the item;
 - B) linking a delivery notice code with said item code;
 - 5 C) sending an electronic transmission to the intended recipient, wherein said transmission includes the delivery notice code;
 - D) using the delivery notice code to access information about said item wherein said information includes delivery plans for the parcel; and
 - 10 E) modifying the delivery plans for the parcel based upon subsequent instructions received from said intended recipient.
12. A method of delivering an item to an intended recipient after an unsuccessful attempted delivery of the item, comprising:
- A) reading an item code from the item;
 - 15 B) linking a delivery notice code with said item code;
 - C) sending an email to the intended recipient, wherein said email includes the delivery notice code;
 - D) receiving from said intended recipient the delivery notice code and allowing access to information about said item wherein said
 - 20 information includes delivery plans for the parcel; and
 - E) modifying the delivery plans for the parcel based upon subsequent instructions received from said intended recipient.

13. A method of delivering an item to an intended recipient, wherein the intended recipient has indicated preferences for the delivery of items shipped to the intended recipient, comprising:
- 5 A) providing an Internet website that may be accessed by the intended recipient;
- B) allowing the intended recipient to enter certain delivery preference information at said website, wherein such information relates to the intended recipient's preferences for the delivery of items;
- 10 C) storing the intended recipient's delivery preference information on a server;
- D) receiving an item for delivery to the intended recipient;
- E) retrieving the intended recipient's delivery preference information; and
- F) delivering the item while adhering to the delivery preference information.
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14. The method of claim 13, wherein the delivery preference information includes an address for an alternative delivery location for an item to be delivered to the intended recipient.
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15. The method of claim 14, wherein the alternative delivery location includes retail postal facilities.
16. The method of claim 13, wherein the delivery preference information includes an intended recipient's email address so that the intended
- 25 recipient may be notified of the delivery or attempted delivery of an item.
17. The method of claim 13, wherein the delivery preference information includes an authorization to deliver the item without obtaining a signature at the delivery location.
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18. A method for delivering, to an intended recipient, a plurality of unique items each having unique identities and each having a different item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:

- 5 A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
- B) attempting the delivery of said plurality of unique items at a designated address of said intended recipient under a set of predetermined delivery rules;
- 10 C) delivering said items to said intended recipient if said delivery rules are met;
- D) retaining said items and proceeding to the following steps if said delivery rules are not met;
- E) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
- 15 F) reading said item code from each of said plurality of items;
- G) linking said delivery notice code with said item code from each of said plurality of items;
- H) reporting information regarding each of said plurality of unique items in response to receipt of a description of said one of said delivery notices from said intended recipient; and
- 20 I) independently modifying a delivery plan of one item of said plurality of items based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient.

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19. A method for providing possession of an item to an intended recipient following a failed delivery attempt of the item, said method comprising the steps of:
- A) providing a machine-readable indicia associated with the item;
 - 5 B) providing indicia associated with obtaining possession of the item differing from the indicia associated with the item; and
 - C) associating the two indicia, such that the indicia associated with obtaining possession of the item can be used to obtain the item.
- 10 20. A method for providing possession of an item to an intended recipient comprising:
- A) processing a plurality of items;
 - B) notifying an intended recipient of an item that said item has been processed and is ready for delivery;
 - 15 C) receiving information from the intended recipient that is requesting to receive the item;
 - D) identifying the item based on the information received from the intended recipient;
 - E) verifying that the intended recipient is authorized to receive the item,
 - 20 based on the identification of the item; and
 - F) providing possession of the item to the intended recipient, if the intended recipient is authorized to receive the item.
- 25 21. The method of claim 20, wherein receiving the information from the intended recipient that is requesting to receive the item includes receiving an associated delivery notice with an associated unique indicia.

5 22. The method of claim 20, wherein verifying the intended recipient is authorized to receive the item based on the identification of the item comprises determining that the information received from the intended recipient that is requesting to receive the item is consistent with an associated delivery notice having an associated unique indicia.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the associated unique indicia is represented by a machine-readable indicia.

10 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the machine-readable indicia is represented by a barcode.

15 25. The method of claim 20, wherein notifying the intended recipient of an item that said item has been processed and is ready for delivery comprises providing a delivery notice comprising a form with a machine-readable indicia for item identification.

20 26. The method of claim 25 wherein the machine-readable indicia is represented by a barcode.

27. A method for providing possession of an item to an intended recipient comprising:
- A) processing a plurality of items;
 - B) attempting delivery of an item to an intended recipient at a first location with said attempted delivery unsuccessful;
 - C) providing the item with an item indicia;
 - D) providing the intended recipient with a notification having a notification indicia at the first location;
 - E) associating the item indicia with the notification indicia;
 - F) transporting the item that has been processed to a second location;
 - G) receiving notification indicia from the intended recipient that is requesting to receive the item;
 - H) identifying the item based on the notification indicia received from the intended recipient;
 - I) verifying that the intended recipient is authorized to receive the item, based on the identification of said item; and
 - J) providing the item to the intended recipient at the second location, if intended recipient is authorized to receive the item.

28. A method for delivering a plurality of unique items each having a unique identity and having a different machine-readable item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:
- A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
 - B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
 - C) reading said item code from one of said items;
 - D) linking said delivery notice code with said item code;
 - E) reporting information regarding the item in response to receipt of a description of said one of said delivery notices from an intended recipient; and
 - G) modifying delivery plans of said item based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient by delivering the item at a location without obtaining a delivery-confirming signature at the location.

29. A method for delivering a plurality of unique items each having a unique identity and having a different machine-readable item code readable therefrom, said method including the steps of:

- A) providing a plurality of delivery notices, each of said delivery notices including a delivery notice code thereon, each of said delivery notice codes being unique within said plurality of delivery notices;
- B) reading said delivery notice code from one of said delivery notices;
- C) reading said item codes from each of said items;
- D) linking said delivery notice code with said item codes;
- E) reporting information regarding the item in response to receipt of a description of said one of said delivery notices from an intended recipient; and
- F) modifying delivery plans of said item based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient by delivering the item at a location without obtaining a delivery-confirming signature at the location.

30. A method of altering the delivery of an item to an intended recipient when an attempted delivery of said item by a delivery service has been unsuccessful and the intended recipient has been provided a delivery notice code, comprising:

- A) contacting the delivery service;
- B) using the delivery notice code to access information about said item wherein said information includes delivery plans for the parcel; and
- C) modifying delivery plans of said item based upon subsequent instructions from said intended recipient by delivering the item at a location without obtaining a delivery-confirming signature at the location.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein contacting the delivery service is performed by a telephone system.
- 5 32. The method of claim 30, wherein contacting the delivery service is performed by an Internet system.
33. The method of claim 30, wherein instructions received from said intended recipient are received through a telephone system.
- 10 34. The method of claim 30, wherein instructions received from said intended recipient are received through an Internet system.